

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

John L. Burton, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Speaker of the California Assembly

January 13, 2004

California Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: FPPC Regulation 18531.6 and Proposed Regulation 18531.61

Dear Commissioners:

We write to express our views on the Commission's staff proposal regarding the above regulations. First, we think it important to note that when the Commission first considered this issue in the summer of 2001, neither the Senate nor Assembly requested the adoption of current regulation 18531.6. At the time, we requested the Commission adopt a regulation that would permit officeholders to raise contributions within the Prop. 34 limits to pay for officeholder expenses. We understand that the Commission was concerned that it might not have the statutory authority to adopt such a regulation and instead adopted the current version of Regulation 18531.6.

We have no objection to the Commission now adopting the staff proposal recommending the adoption of Regulation 18531.61, which would prospectively repeal Regulation 18531.6. We understand that the repeal would be effective January 24, 2004 and would thereafter prevent officeholders from raising contributions for their pre-Prop. 34 committees unless those committees had net debt.

If the Commission adopts the proposed recommendation, we would appreciate the Commission's willingness to sponsor legislation that would permit officeholders to raise contributions within limits for use in paying officeholders expenses. We look forward to a dialogue on this issue in the near future.

Sincerely,



JOHN L. BURTON
President pro Tempore of the Senate



HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Speaker of the California State Assembly

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